forests, while strengthening their livelihoods, based on participatory village level microplans involving socio-economic appraisal.

Electronic waste

2213. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India do not have a specific legislation to deal with electronic waste disposal which is highly hazardous to human health and environment; and

(b) if so, the details and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests have notified the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2003 which regulate the generation, collection, storage, treatment, disposal as well as export and import of hazardous wastes including e-waste. The processes generating hazardous wastes are listed in Schedule I to these Rules. The residues and wastes generated from the operations in electronic industry are already considered as hazardous wastes and are included at S.No. 31 of Schedule I to these Rules. As per the provisions of these Rules, the import of e-waste is regulated under Schedule 3 to these Rules wherein Electrical and Electronic Assemblies are covered under category A 1180 in the list A and category B 1110 in the list B of Schedule 3. The import of such waste is permitted only for direct reuse and not for recycling or final disposal.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests had also constituted a Task Force to finalise the Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of e-waste for State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees of the Union Territories and the industries for handling e-waste. The Guidelines for environmentally sound management of e-waste have since been finalized.

Green India Programme

2214. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of Government's "Green India" programme; and

(b) in what manner it is different from the National Wastelands Development Board which was wound up some years back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Under the "Green India" programme plantations over 6 million hectares of degraded forests are proposed to be taken up in two phases. The programme would be part financed by Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) Fund.

(b) The National Wasteland Development Board is still functioning under the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources) and is responsible for development of wastelands in non-forest areas.

Periyyar Tiger Reserve

2215. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poachers have turned protectors in Periyyar Tiger Reserve in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to motivate forest villagers to become protectors to save the dwindling tiger population in other reserves like Corbett, Ranthambore and Nayamgiri forest in Orissa etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) As reported by the State, in the Periyar Tiger Reserve of Kerala, through ecodevelopment initiatives, the tiger reserve management has been successful in turning poachers into protectors of wildlife.

(b) and (c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger funding support is being provided to all tiger range States, which *inter alia*, include ecodevelopment of villages around tiger reserves for eliciting local support towards conservation, through reciprocal commitments.

Rising level of air pollution

2216. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is rising level of air pollution in the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCT);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is commissioning high-tech machines that can measure even the smallest toxic particles floating in the air; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The ambient air quality is monitored at 7 (seven) locations in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). These locations include residential areas, industrial areas and traffic intersection. As per the monitored data, the levels of sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide in the ambient air are showing a decreasing trend. The nitrogen dioxide levels decreased during the year 2007 in comparison to 2006. The concentration of the Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) in residential and Industrial areas indicates mixed trend during 2001-2007.

(c) and (d) Sophisticated equipments for 3 (three) Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) and 7 (seven) $PM_{2.5}$ Samplers have been procured by the CPCB for monitoring of gaseous pollutants including fine particulate matter for assessing the ambient air quality in the NCT of Delhi.

Pamba Action Plan

2217. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project proposal 'Pamba Action Plan' has been submitted to Government;

(b) if so, the details of proposal thereof;

(c) whether necessary approval has been given to the proposal;